



**NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT
EIGHTH DISTRICT
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAN
DECEMBER 2016**





**NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT
8TH DISTRICT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW.....	3
Community Engagement Policy.....	3
Community Engagement Plan.....	3
Community Outreach and Public Information Program	4
EIGHTH DISTRICT	4
LEADERSHIP.....	5
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & INFORMATION PRIORITIES.....	5
ACTIONABLE ITEMS	7
1. The Eighth District will create a robust relationship with the Public Information Office to ensure our citizens receive feedback regarding the issues they raise.....	7
2. The Eighth District will mitigate homelessness by addressing root causes of homelessness.....	7
3. The Eighth District will remedy vagrancy, aggressive panhandling, and aggressive solicitation through partnerships with many agencies and organizations.....	7
4. The Eighth District will work to identify those bars that are creating a nuisance in the community and work with the bar owners to reduce these concerns.....	8
5. The Eighth District will combat noise complaints in a number of ways.....	8
TASKS.....	9
APPENDIX.....	10

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The New Orleans Police Department's Community Engagement Program consists of a Community Engagement Police, Community Engagement Plan and Community Outreach and Public Information Plans.



Community Engagement Policy

The New Orleans Police Department shall promote and strengthen community partnerships, engage constructively with the community, ensure collaborative problem solving, ensure ethical and bias-free policing, and increase community confidence in the Department.

Community Engagement Plan

The Community Engagement Plan is designed to be a long term, aspirational document that will enhance the NOPD's community engagement, community policing and problem-oriented policing procedures. The objectives of this manual are meant to guide officers on how to foster positive community engagement interactions between citizens and NOPD,

utilize community policing ideals, create opportunities for substantive engagement with the community, substantive collaboration with the community as well as civic engagement.

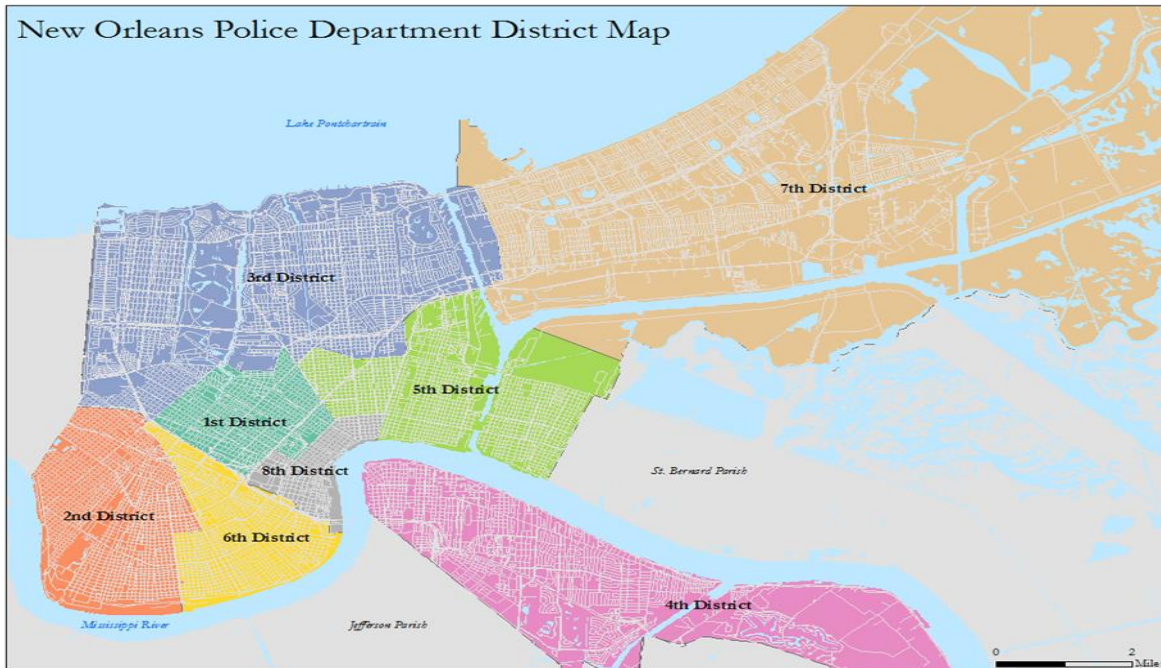
Community Outreach and Public Information Program

A district-specific collaborative partnership with the community. The Community Outreach and Public Information Plans will be specific to each District and address the unique needs of the community serviced in each District.

On October 13, 2016, the NOPD hosted a “Community Engagement Night Out” in the 8th District at 334 Royal St. The purpose of this event was to identify and prioritize public safety concerns voiced by the community members present. . The priorities chosen should be reassessed within three to six months with the community to determine if new priorities should be addressed.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

The Eighth District encompasses approximately 7.5 square miles, making it the smallest police district in the City of New Orleans. Its boundaries are the River to S. Claiborne, and Calliope to Franklin Ave. The District currently serves a population of approximately 20,000 residents. The police station is located at 334 Royal Street. The District has 97 officers as of January 17, 2017. The District phone number is 504-658-6080. The 8th District can be contacted by email at nopd8thdistrict@nola.gov. For more information about the work of these officers, please follow the Facebook page account: NOPD Eighth.



LEADERSHIP

Commander Nicholas Gernon, a 14 year veteran of the NOPD, was appointed as Commander of the 8th District in November 2016. Commander Gernon has worked with NOPD in the 8th District as a Detective and Detective Sergeant, NOPD Homicide Division, and 6th District Investigation Unit. He has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Orleans.

Second in Command is Lieutenant Anthony J. Caprera, a 33 year veteran of the NOPD, was appointed to the 8th District in April 2010. Lt. Caprera has worked with NOPD Homicide Division and 8th District Investigations Unit. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & INFORMATION PRIORITIES

Given the issues raised by the community, the primary area of focus in the 8th District Community Outreach and Public Information Plan, drafted for December 2016, will be a multifaceted approach which will encompass stake holders from across city agencies as well as the various law enforcement agencies within this district. The Eighth District is a unique area encompassing a large number of business owners and residents, not all of which have same concerns or goals. One of the overall tenants of the Eighth District's approach will be a robust relationship with the Public Information Office to ensure our citizens receive feedback regarding the issues they raise.

A major area of concern within the Eighth District both within the business community as well as throughout the residential area is with vagrancy and homelessness. Part of the response from the Eighth Police District will be to identify and task additional officers with engaging the homeless population in regards to street level crimes. The Eighth District will also take steps to develop a training plan with the City's Law office to ensure the officers understand the ordinances unique to the Eighth District.

The Eighth District community also recognizes homelessness is not a crime. The causes of homelessness are rooted in a systematic breakdown in a number of societal safety nets. Recognizing our some of our homeless population are chronically homeless due to mental illness and substance abuse, the Eighth District will work with our partners in other area of city government to curtail some of these gaps in services for our most vulnerable population.

A large number of complaints were regarding noise and the lack of enforcement regarding the noise ordinance. The Eighth District has been working with the City's Law department to develop a guideline for Officers to use to enforce the noise ordinances. This educational campaign should help officers understand their responsibility when it comes to enforcing the noise ordinance. Additionally the Eighth District has recently begun to build a relationship with the Musicians and Cultural Coalition of New Orleans (MaCCNO) in order to promote understanding among the street performers regarding their role in French Quarter noise abatement. The Eighth District would like to incorporate officers into the MaCCNO's training of musicians on the noise ordinance so that they may develop relationships outside of an enforcement capacity. This should assist us in ensuring compliance with the noise ordinance, without creating an environment which stifles the musical culture which New Orleans is famous for.

Finally the Eighth District recognizes there are a number of stakeholders within this district who are committed to increasing public safety. This will ensure members of our community don't believe we are non-responsive to their needs. As public servants we should recognize our duty to keep the public informed of our successes and our failures. By having strong partnerships with our community, the Eighth District should have a limited number of failures and a great deal of success.

ACTIONABLE ITEMS

Actionable items are concrete steps that the District will take to implement the Community Outreach and Public Information Plan. Actionable items will be quantified or qualified through data analytics and anecdotes. The actionable items are transparency steps that will be updated monthly to demonstrate to the community the exact steps that the District executed.

1. The Eighth District will create a robust relationship with the Public Information Office to ensure our citizens receive feedback regarding the issues they raise.

Task #1: The Eighth District will work with the NOPD Public Information Office to highlight an officer in the District whose sole responsibility is to help and accommodate the homeless community within the Eighth District.

Task #2: The Eighth District will communicate back to our stakeholders what steps are being taken to achieve some of the stated goals. For example, the Eighth District will send information to the Public Information Office to be shared through social media avenues.

2. The Eighth District will mitigate homelessness by addressing root causes of homelessness.

Task #1: The Eighth District will dispatch Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to respond to calls concerning vagrancy and homelessness. CIT officers are trained to recognize and manage behavior that may be attributable to a mental health disorder. CIT officers are also trained to de-escalate mental health crises, which are often underlying issues in the homeless community.

Task #2: The Eighth District has been engaging in collaborative problem-solving meetings with the Health Department, the Mayor's office, Sanitation, and other policy advisors on both short-term and long-term solutions to homelessness. The meeting minutes will be shared with the community, including next steps for implementation and sustained execution.

Task #3: The Eighth District will work with partners in the Health Department to identify the chronically homeless to assist them through social services, such as helping them transition to permanent housing. The Eighth District will document the encounters and successes of transitioning homeless citizens to permanent housing.

3. The Eighth District will remedy vagrancy, aggressive panhandling, and aggressive solicitation through partnerships with many agencies and organizations.

Task #1: The Eighth District will continue to partner with the various private security patrols within the Eighth District to develop a more robust plan to address aggressive panhandling and aggressive solicitation. The Eighth District will document collaborative problem-solving meetings with the private security patrols.

Task #2: The Eighth District will take steps to develop a training plan with the City's Law office to ensure the officers understand the ordinances unique to the Eighth District.

Task #3: The Eighth District will continue to enforce aggressive panhandling and aggressive solicitation ordinances among other nuisance crimes.

4. The Eighth District will work to identify those bars that are creating a nuisance in the community and work with the bar owners to reduce these concerns.

Task #1: Partner with the City Attorney's Office to ensure compliance with all applicable nuisance laws and ordinances that bars in the District are violating.

5. The Eighth District will combat noise complaints in a number of ways.

Task # 1: The Eighth District has been working with the City's Health Department to develop a guideline for Officers to use to enforce the noise ordinances.

Task #2: The Eighth District would like to partner with the Musicians and Cultural Coalition of New Orleans to provide officers to train musicians on the noise ordinance so that they are aware of the noise ordinances. The Eighth District will document the training with musicians and provide that information to the community.

TASKS

Please copy and paste which task (listed above) that the officer worked towards completing. Fill out “task”, “officer name” and “date” fields on every task sheet. However, if applicable, print MAX report and staple to task form in lieu of filling out “action” portion of form.

Task#: _____

Officer Name: _____

Date: _____

Action: _____

APPENDIX

Community Engagement Night Out

The first question posed was, “In your opinion, what the greatest problems in your District are and how the police department can help? Please provide specific examples.” In the 8th District, the primary responses from the community were:

a. Vagrancy & Panhandling

- Panhandlers begging in every block of the Quarter with signs, dogs, belongings; blocking sidewalks and Cops just driving by
- People sleeping in front of properties and everywhere
- Panhandlers everywhere
- Vagrants who are used by musicians for reserving spaces in exchange for liquor (700 Royal)
- Same group everyday on 700 block of Royal – Intoxicated, urinate in public – loud cursing
- Passed out or sleeping in front of shops, homes etc.
- Threatening behavior
- The homeless men who are making the area their homes.
- Every morning there are fights going on between homeless men and you never know when the anger going to spill over into an attack on passersby.
- Vagrants; highly aggressive, appear psychotic in their actions

b. Bars & Clubs

- Over serving customers with no regard for the customers safety or the neighborhood
- Aggressive sidewalk barkers, strippers, and shot girls
- Illegal alcohol sales from windows
- Iggy’s Bar; two murders; required cameras don’t record
- The John; illegal activities
- Big Daddies (Franklin) – people outside 24/7 – loud
- 700 block of Bourbon – unruly crowds
- Double Play– large groups of unruly people outside until 8am

c. Drugs & Prostitution

- Drug use and sales (many locations)
- Drug driven crime
- Drug users leaving behind their utensils
- Visible drug dealing (e.g. 900-1000 St Louis)
- Visible prostitution (e.g. 900-1000 St Louis)
- People sitting on stoops arranging drug deals (e.g. 900-1000 St Louis, 400 Burgundy)

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- d. Lack of Public Safety
 - The ability to walk alone in confidence (Need Beat Cops!)
 - Criminals cruising around the neighborhood looking for trouble
 - Stalker knows response times and leaves (up to 3 time per night) prior to police arriving (Marigny)
 - Huge crowds pouring into the fragile historic environment are not only making life intolerable for residents, they pose a huge, huge security threat, one like the Boston Marathon and other large gatherings in other cities. The problem in the French Quarter is that it's not just an annual occurrence. Now, the population at least quadruples every weekend and the Quarter becomes a crowded nightmare during festivals. With the sad level of policing, there is no way for the NOPD to secure the area from threat of a terrorist attack.
 - Young people out after curfew (Is curfew ever enforced, is there one?)
- e. Public Urination & Defecation
 - Over served drunks who vomit and urinate all over the Quarter
 - Pirates Alley is the French Quarter Pissoir
 - Individuals saving spots for musicians in 700 Royal – urinate, defecate, masturbate
 - Public urination and destruction of private property
 - Every elitist Tulane and Loyola college student and male tourist—the worst offenders, roaming drunk, or worker on his way to or home from work, thinks he has the right to pee on the front doors of Pirate's Alley or through the fence into the Cathedral garden.
- f. Noise & Sound
 - Street musicians playing till 2am or 3am way above decibel levels (e.g. Royal/St Peter; Royal/St Louis)
 - Royal/St Peter crowds (75-100 people per hour); no regulations (a festival environment)
 - Large, loud street musicians with drum kits, keyboards, amplifiers playing late at night (700 Royal)
 - Noise and sounds from bars/clubs on Bourbon Street out of control (200 – 700 Bourbon)
 - Rowdy crowds in 700-800 Bourbon
 - Street musicians blocking sidewalks, traffic lanes, parking spots (e.g. Royal/St Peter; Royal/St Louis)
 - Festivals; disturbances from their sound devices after hours

g. AirBnB Issues

- Guests being loud
- Loud courtyard parties
- Unruly behavior by guests and festival attendees

h. Miscellaneous Non NOPD Items

- Where are the State Troopers?
- Garbage men on 900 block of Touro pickup recycle as garbage not letting recycle people come by to get recycle. We are paying for recycling
- Getting towed for street cleaning
- People placing cones to block parking
- Residential parking tags - why they are needed?
- Racist neighbors
- Vehicles behaving poorly
- Trash not cleaned up; Drains always clogged (700 Royal)
- Remove the newspaper stands in 700 Royal (currently used as urinals)

The second question posed was, “How can the community collaborate with the police department to address these issues?” In the 8th District, the primary responses from the community were:

a. Vagrancy & Panhandling:

- Call 911 when observed or use the FQ Task Force App if in the Quarter
- Find ways to cut off alcohol
- Stop businesses from selling single beers, pints
- Work with Hotels to educate visitors not to provide money to panhandlers, as there are churches and other groups that provide food and services to the homeless.
- Identify locations and provide support for “homeless meters”
- Push the City to make the Quarter cleaner again; wash sidewalks daily; cite businesses that leave trashcans out 24/7
- Work with our Council Member to improve jail acceptance and processing time for Vagrants to allow NOPD to quickly get back patrolling the streets after taking someone to jail.

b. Noise

- Push the City to have the Health Department start enforcing the Sound Ordinances

- Prepare a booklet of the laws and procedures to familiarize officers with the 8th Districts unique laws.
 - Use Sound Readings for ABO hearings & Municipal Court for neighbor's claims.
 - Work with the City to define what laws are enforceable and what are not
- c. Bars & Clubs**
- Report nuisance bars/clubs to Louisiana ATC
 - Push business leaders to encourage bars and clubs to cease illegal activities
- d. Drugs and Prostitution, Public Urination etc.**
- Call 911 when observed
 - Use the FQ Task Force App
 - Lack of Public Safety
 - Install Video Cameras/Provide footage to NOPD to help solve crimes
 - Dusk to Dawn lighting on your property
 - Look for ways to provide Police Details in the other areas of the 8th District

The third question posed was, "What does the police department do well in terms of community engagement? Please provide specific examples." In the 8th District, the primary responses from the community were:

- a. Willingness of Cm Walls and his officers to meet with the Neighborhood
- b. Community Policing is improving
- c. Response time for emergency calls
- d. More sympathetic and professional than in the past
- e. Easy to interact with
- f. 8DIU YouTube Site; prompt notifications seeking help to solve crimes

The fourth question posed was, "What could the police department do better in terms of community engagement? Please provide specific examples." In the 8th District, the primary responses from the community were:

- a. Earlier notification of Comstat and NONPACC meetings; always hold; don't cancel
- b. Retrain officers in using sound equipment
- c. Slow down and get out of vehicles more frequently
- d. More Beat Cops
- e. Enforce Royal Street laws after 7pm
- f. Train officers in FQ laws and ordinances
- g. Better enforce the existing laws on the books

The fifth question posed was, “What activities should the Department undertake to improve relationships with youth?” In the 8th District, the primary responses from the community were:

- a. No responses

The sixth question posed was, “How can we reach out to individuals not present to engage them in improving the police department?” In the 8th District, the primary responses from the community were:

- a. No responses